

PROACTIVE MESSAGE BUFFERING ACROSS INTERMITTENT NETWORK CONNECTIONS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for proactively buffering data across intermittent network connections, to increase the probability of desired data being available at remote network nodes where the nodes do not have continuous access to the network. An association table (80) associates user accounts with messaging nodes (14). A primary messaging zone (82) is generated, indicating the messaging nodes associated with a recipient user account, at which there is a significant probability that the user may request the collection of messages. During intermittent communications sessions with members of said primary messaging zone (82), incoming messages are delivered to these messaging nodes, where the messages are proactively buffered in preparation for a user request to collect messages while a messaging node (20) cannot collect from external sources. This addresses the problem of a messaging node (20) being unable to obtain new messages, on request, across temporarily inactive network connections, as incoming messages will have already crossed the intermittent connection before being requested.